



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

*****NEWS RELEASE*****

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Districts offering 4K grow 70 percent in seven years

27 districts add 4K in 2007-08 school year

MADISON—State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster announced that two-thirds of Wisconsin's 426 school districts offer 4-year-old kindergarten (4K), one-year growth of 10 percent and a doubling of enrollment since 2001.

"The benefits of four-year-old kindergarten are indisputable," Burmaster said. "School districts, parents, and communities throughout the state have embraced 4K to provide early education for their children."

Wisconsin has 27,759 students enrolled in 4K as of the third Friday in September count.

The number of districts offering 4K grew 70 percent over the past seven years. Twenty-seven Wisconsin districts added 4K this year. A

growing trend in 4K is community approaches. Seven of the state's new 4K districts are collaborating with child care or Head Start centers to provide services to 4-year-olds and their families.

"While parents are the first and the most important teachers of their children, early learning experiences through quality 4K programs are among the best steps schools and communities can take in the formal education of our children," Burmaster said.

She cited a growing body of research that shows quality early childhood education provides educational and economic benefits for all children regardless of family income.

"Early childhood programs prepare youngsters to learn and to successfully transition into school by bridging the effects of poverty, allowing children from economically disadvantaged families to gain an

Growth in 4K — 2001-02 to 2007-08

School Year	Number of Districts	Number of Students
2001-02	166	14,483
2002-03	180	16,051
2003-04	189	16,957
2004-05	208	18,652
2005-06	234	20,959
2006-07	257	24,078
2007-08	283	27,759

NOTE: While 27 districts added 4K in the 2007-08 school year, the net increase is 26.

(more)

equal footing with their peers. Reports show that young children attending quality early education programs do better in school, and they have fewer referrals for special education. Their retention rates are lower, and they are more likely to graduate from high school. Early childhood education reduces remediation and school costs. High-quality early learning programs raise achievement for all students and help us close the achievement gap, essentially halting the gap before it begins,” she said.

Burmaster praised the 2007-09 budget, which included \$3 million in start-up grants for the 2008-09 school year to support expanding access for 4K with priority for those providing community approaches. The Department of Public Instruction is working with the State Superintendent’s Advisory Committee on 4K to develop procedures for awarding grants and recognizing the important role of community approaches in serving all students and their families.

“Wisconsin has been making great strides to provide quality 4K programming,” Burmaster said. “Our goal is to provide quality 4K access for every child.”

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NOTE: A list of districts providing 4K during the 2007-08 school year follows. This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2007_147.pdf.

Districts Offering 4-Year-Old Kindergarten

2007-08 School Year

A-B

Abbotsford
Adams-Friendship Area
Albany
Algoma
Alma
Alma Center
* Almond-Bancroft
Amery
Arcadia
Argyle
Athens
Auburndale
Augusta
Barneveld
Barron Area
Beaver Dam
Beecher-Dunbar-Pembine
Belmont Community

*** Beloit**

Benton
Birchwood
Black Hawk
Blair-Taylor
Bloomer
Bowler
Boyceville Community
* Brillion
Brodhead
Bruce
Butternut

C-D

Cadott Community
Cambria-Friesland
* **Cameron**
Cashton
Cassville
Cedar Grove-Belgium Area
Chetek
Chilton
Chippewa Falls Area
Clayton
Clear Lake

Clinton Community
Clintonville
Cochrane-Fountain City
Colby
Coleman
Colfax
Cornell
Crandon
Crivitz
Cuba City
Cudahy
Cumberland
Delavan-Darien
Denmark
De Soto Area
Dodgeland
Dodgeville
Drummond
Durand

E-G

* East Troy Community
Eau Claire Area
Edgar
Edgerton
Elcho
Eleva-Strum
Elk Mound Area
Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah
Elmbrook
Elmwood
Erin
Fall River
Fennimore Community
Flambeau
Florence
Fond du Lac
Fontana J8
Fox Point J2
Frederic
Freedom Area
Geneva J4
* Gillett
Gilman

Gilmanton
Glendale-River Hills
Glenwood City
Glidden
Goodman-Armstrong
Granton Area
Grantsburg
Green Lake
Greendale
Greenfield
Greenwood
* Gresham

H-K

Hamilton
Hartland-Lakeside
Herman #22
Highland
Hilbert
Hillsboro

*** Holmen**

* Howards Grove
Hurley
Hustisford
Independence
Iola-Scandinavia
Iowa-Grant
Juda
Kaukauna Area
Kenosha
Kewaskum
Kewaunee
Kickapoo Area
Kiel Area
Kimberly Area
Kohler

L

Lac du Flambeau #1
LaCrosse
Ladysmith-Hawkins
LaFarge
Lake Geneva J1
* Lake Holcombe
Lake Mills Area

Lancaster Community
Laona
Lena
Linn J4
Linn J6
Little Chute Area
* Lomira
Loyal

M

Manawa
Manitowoc
Maple Dale-Indian Hill
Marathon City
Marinette
Marion
Marshall
Marshfield
Mauston
Medford Area
Mellen
Menasha

*** Menomonee Falls**

Mercer
Merton Community
Milwaukee
Mineral Point
* Minocqua J1
Mishicot
Mondovi
Monona Grove
Monroe
Montello
Monticello

N-O

Necedah Area
Neillsville
Nekoosa
Neosho J3
New Auburn
New Glarus
New Holstein
New Lisbon
* **New Richmond**

North Crawford	Prentice	Siren	Washburn
North Fond du Lac	Princeton	Slinger	Waterloo
North Lakeland	R	Solon Springs	Watertown
Northern Ozaukee	Racine	Somerset	Waukesha
Norwalk-Ontario-	Randolph	South Milwaukee	Wausau
Wilton	* Random Lake	South Shore	Wausaukee
Norway J7	Reedsville	Southern Door County	Wautoma Area
Oak Creek-Franklin	Rhineland	Southwestern Wisconsin	Wauwatosa
* Oakfield	Rib Lake	Sparta Area	Wauzeka-Steuben
Oconomowoc Area	Rice Lake Area	Spencer	* Webster
* Oconto	Richfield	Stanley-Boyd Area	West Allis
Oconto Falls	Richland	* Stevens Point Area	Westby Area
Onalaska	Richmond	Stockbridge	Westfield
Osceola	Rio Community	Stratford	Weston
Oshkosh Area	Ripon	Sturgeon Bay	Weyauwega-Fremont
Osseo-Fairchild	River Ridge	Superior	Weyerhaeuser Area
Owen-Withee	Riverdale	* Suring	Wheatland J1
P	Rosendale-Brandon	Thorp	Whitefish Bay
Palmyra-Eagle Area	Rosholt	* Three Lakes	Whitehall
Pardeeville Area	Royall	Tigerton	* Whitewater
Park Falls	S-T	Tomahawk	Whitnall
* Parkview	Saint Francis	Trevor-Wilmot	* Wild Rose
Pepin Area	Seneca	Consolidated	* Williams Bay
Pittsville	Sevastopol	Tri-County Area	Winter
Platteville	Sharon J11	Turtle Lake	* Wisconsin Heights
Plum City	Shawano	* Twin Lakes #4	Wisconsin Rapids
Plymouth	Sheboygan Area	Two Rivers	Wonewoc-Union Center
Port Edwards	Shell Lake	U-W	Woodruff J1
Portage Community	Shiocton	Unity	
Potosi	Shorewood	Viroqua Area	
Prairie du Chien Area	Shullsburg	Wabeno Area	
Prairie Farm	Silver Lake J1	Walworth J1	

NOTE: The 27 districts marked with an asterisk (*) implemented 4K in the 2007-08 school year. Those in bold are new districts using community approaches to provide 4K services. The net increase of 4K districts from 2006-07 to 2007-08 is 26.